



**Site Visit Programmatic Questions  
Positive Alternatives 2016  
Philomena House – June 9, 2016**

**1. Update/ Demographic Reporting**

- Review your two most recently submitted Update/Demographic Reports: are you meeting Report Count Goals?  
Meeting goals yet this grantee has expressed that they are receiving a smaller amount of calls expressing interest.
- Note any significant differences between the reports: are your programs stable? Improving? What do the reports indicate about progress in your programs?  
Programs are stable with staff being consistently available.
- Any questions on the recording of data on either form?  
None at this time.

**2. Work Plan**

- Review your 2012-16 grant application's description of the program you requested to be funded. Note the services and activities you said you would provide and the number of clients you would serve.
- Please prepare a **short summary of your current program(s) and the number of clients being served.** Address these topics:
  - a. How does what you describe in the application compare with what you are currently providing?
  - b. Have any programs and/or activities or services been added or removed?
  - c. Have the number of clients being served per quarter decreased or increased in the 4th year?
  - d. Is there anything in particular you want to share about your current program to explain its current status?

**Summary of Guest Activities – January to June 2016**

Philomena House currently has three guests. Two are new guests since 2016. One has been with us since July. Her baby was born in October. She wanted full-time employment as a bus driver. She obtained her commercial driver's license (CDL) after attending classes and expects to be hired by fall of 2016. She has found her new apartment, the paperwork is almost complete and she will be moving out soon. While still in driver's school, she got a job at Dairy Queen last fall, just six weeks after her son was born. She has recently been promoted to manager. She plans to leave Dairy Queen and work full-time as a driver. She expects her bus-driving job will provide "benefits" and an income adequate to comfortably support herself and her son. She has attended all her doctor and pediatrician appointments. Her son is growing and developing normally. His vaccinations are all current.

Another guest came to us from a shelter with a history of a serious anxiety disorder requiring medication. She also had a previous child who was involuntarily placed for adoption. Three weeks after the birth of her daughter she left with the baby and was gone from 6 a.m. until curfew at 8 p.m. When she got back she said it was her boyfriend's birthday and she needed to leave to stay overnight. Our housemother warned that was against our rules and she would have to leave. She packed all her things and took her baby and drove away in her grandma's car. She said she had a plan and no longer needed Philomena House. Approximately 30 minutes later, she called and asked to return and stay at the house. With her grandma listening (conference call) I said we could not let her return that night, but if she began regularly attending her class (that we arranged for her earlier that month) the next day at the Hennepin County Medical Center's Mother - Baby program we would then consider readmission. She never attended the class. Her daughter has since been placed with an adoptive family.

Last summer another guest had her baby removed by Child Protective Services after delivering at St. Joseph Hospital. That came about during the immediate post-partum period and seemed related to a misunderstanding by the nursing staff. We felt that decision was too precipitous. However there was nothing more for us to do. The Mom left us abruptly and moved into her boyfriend's apartment. We attended the custody hearing and attempted to advocate for her. Eventually, after 6 months the court dismissed the case. The Mom began to have short, supervised visits with her son but had to travel 2 hrs. each way for that opportunity. Her public health nurse contacted me and asked if we could "re-admit" her and help her to bond with the child and demonstrate appropriate parenting skills. I agreed to do this and she is again one of our guests and intermittently her son also stays at Philomena House. However she feels a lack of "bonding", and is uncomfortable "mothering" him. We intend to introduce some people from adoption services in the event she may be considering placing her son for adoption.

A mother called and referred her pregnant daughter who is due at the end of July. This pregnant woman is already the mother of a 4 yr. old son who currently lives with his grandmother and a step-grandfather. We agreed to accept the pregnant women and she has already met with an adoption agency and plans to place her daughter for adoption. She also has an obstetrician and is obtaining family assistance now. She has a dental appointment later this month. She would like to resume school and is considering the "Jeremiah Program" for single mothers.

### **3. Fiscal Review**

- Review of the 2015-16 expenditures spreadsheet sent by Ellen Heit.  
Yes PH is in agreement with MDH account spreadsheets.
- Have you revised your 2015-16 budget justification?  
Yes, a budget revision was submitted and approved this spring.
- Any questions on your completion of the 2014-16 grant and your budget?  
Yes, questions were asked on the end of the grant cycle and the start of the new grant cycle. The month of June will require two invoices – one for the end of the current

grant from June 1 – 19. The second invoice will cover the new grant period of June 20 – 30. Both invoices will be due no later than July 20, 2016.

**4. Do you have any questions on the findings from your Financial Reconciliation?**

No questions at this time.

**5. Grant Closeout Form**

- You will have an opportunity to review a draft of the Grant Closeout Form.

**6. 2015-16 Evaluation - Due June 10th**

- Your 2015-16 Evaluation Plan will be discussed. Any suggestions provided in your 2013-14 Report Summary should be included in the plan, if you are continuing the same evaluation.

PH evaluated their I-conferences for their clients. These conferences assemble all caregivers for any particular client and discuss the client's progress and continue to evaluate and revise each client's individual plan. The evaluation plan and report has been submitted.

- Any questions on the expectations of the report or your organization's evaluation plan for 2015-16?

None at this time.

**7. Positive Alternatives website**

- The PA website will be reconfigured once contracts are all signed.
- Resources for grantees will remain basically the same.
- WRTK booklet revisions have not yet been completed.

The PA website and the WRTK booklet both continue to be a work in progress. Please continue to use the WRTK booklet that is currently available. Updates on both will be sent when each project is completed.

**8. Grant Manager Updates**

Currently the grant cycle has been 2 years. The new grant will be in one year periods. The PA grant policies are in the process of being updated. Revised policies will be sent out early in the new grant cycle. A WebEx webinar will be offered for all PA staff involved with grant management responsibilities on Thursday morning, July 14<sup>th</sup>. Please reserve the date.

**9. Issues specific to this grantee.**

As a fulltime residence this grantee had an infestation of bed bugs this past winter. It was a huge learning experience for the grantee and was a costly situation. Policies for the organization have been developed to combat any future problems in this area.

This grantee also had struggles with their budgeting for a number of months. Recently they have hired part time accounting assistance and have resolved any issues they were having with their budgeting and invoicing.

**10. Facility**

- If your facility has been remodeled or updated please give an update. Do you have any plans to move your organization to another building in the near future?

No plans are being made to change locations. This grantee continues to update and make their House welcoming and safe for all their clients.

- If grant-funded activity areas have been significantly altered, be prepared to discuss.

**11. Health Equity** is a priority goal at the Minnesota Department of Health. How is your organization addressing this need?

This grantee offers free services to anyone who meets the criteria for becoming a resident.

Noone is turned away because of race or creed.

**12.** What are the new **unaddressed needs** in the communities you serve?

Child care for residents is a continuing problem.

- Do you have a well-developed and up-to-date list of community partners available?  
PH is a relatively new grantee and organization. They continue to make headway and develop ideas to develop partnerships with like-minded community partners.
- Are you able to make warm referrals to any of these partners?

Yes, they are making great efforts to know their partners and make referrals to them.

**13. Clients stories** (along with client data collection) are an important component of the work we do. Client stories fill in the gaps that data can't detail and humanize the efforts made by all grantees.

- **Have you submitted your PA funded client stories yet?**

Thank you for submitting your client story. You are welcome to submit any other client story if you would like.

**14. How can MDH be more supportive of your program?**

No suggestions.

**15. Other?**

Philomena House is a relatively new PA grantee who offers housing to women in unplanned pregnancy situations. They have worked diligently to have all operational and program policies in place for their organization. This grantee has had much perseverance and has done a good job at getting their residence operational. One suggestion for PH would be to more actively promote the organization through outreach to all area partners. With the start of the new grant cycle they have budgeted some of their funding for outreach. Undoubtedly, future outreach efforts will continue to propel this organization forward in both programming and as a noteworthy organization.

Site Visit Date: June 9, 2016

Center: Philomena House

Grantee Staff: Joyce Nevins

Positive Alternatives Grant Manager: Mary Ottman